

National

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Biways

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February/March 2000

NATIONAL MAGAZINE OF THE BISEXUAL MOVEMENT IN AUSTRALIA

Produced by the Australian Bisexual Network PO Box 490 Lutwyche Qld 4030

Bisexual, Lesbian, Gay & Transgender People
from around the World will come together to celebrate
in Rome, Italy on July 1st, 2000 for

conferences, forums,
and the WORLD PRIDE
streets of

Also the ILGA World
July 4th to 7th will



film festival, parties
March through the
Rome.

Conference from
take place in Rome.



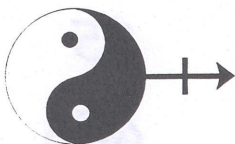
Join the Bisexual Community
entry in the Sydney Gay &
Lesbian Mardi Gras Parade on
March 4th.

Visit the Sydney Bi Network stall
at Fair Day in Victoria Park on
February 20th.

Read all about it and more inside this issue of National Biways.

See inside for all the Bi news, issues and events.

The Bi Personals & Resources now come as a Supplement.



P.O. Box 490
Lutwyche
Queensland
AUSTRALIA 4030

Tel. +61-7-3857 2500 / 07-3857 2500 / mobile 0416-068 532 or 1800-653 223 (freecall QLD country outside Brisbane)

E-Mail. ausbinet@rainbow.net.au

Home Page & URL Links. <http://www.rainbow.net.au/~ausbinet/>

EDITOR

Niki Armanasco
tel. 07-3857 7673
bodgirl@ozemail.com.au

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Wayne Roberts
tel. 07-3857 2500 or 0416-068 532
ausbinet@rainbow.net.au

CONTRIBUTORS & HELPERS

Gillian, Gabby, Wayne R., Kirsten, Andrew, Rosanne, Graham, Peter, Pieter, Melissa, Charles, Deb & others, thanks.

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL

ILGA, and others on the Internet.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE & PRINCIPLES

National BIWAYS is produced by the Australian Bisexual Network to inform its audience about social, political and personal issues relevant to bisexuality and bisexual people, to provide a forum for exchanging opinions and sharing experiences, to link up with and support geographically or socially isolated bisexual people, to foster the Bisexual Movement in Australia and to help build a diverse multicultural community of bisexual and bi-friendly people and groups in Australia and elsewhere.

ABN realises that bisexuality is inextricably linked to other identities (gender, race, class, etc). Our intention is that *National BIWAYS* will represent a broad spectrum of bisexual voices and images. We are committed to taking an active role in building a multicultural bisexual community free of racism, sexism, classism, homophobia and other forms of oppression.

Through self-examination and through the contents of this news magazine, we will endeavour to challenge our own racism, classism, sexism (and our own biphobia) as well as that of others. We will work to create a supportive bisexual community and to promote equality and understanding for bisexual people in both the heterosexual and the lesbian/gay communities. We regard ourselves as part of a larger sexual minority (queer) community, a gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities, and consider the fight for lesbian and gay rights to be our own. We advocate the recognition, inclusion and involvement of bisexual people in existing gay and lesbian and transgender communities, in lesbian and gay politics, in community development and consultations, in sexual health and HIV/AIDS issues, policy, research and education. ABN does not support the promotion of paedophilia or organisations that promote it.

We are sex-positive, recognising that we live under increasing sexual oppression. We support sex education for its own sake. We advocate the distribution of information and resources to halt the spread of HIV/AIDS, STDs and unwanted pregnancies. We support the rights of people with HIV/AIDS to be free of discrimination, to have access to information, housing and quality medical care and treatments.

We seek to expand, not constrain, the definitions of bisexual and we respect the right of the individual to define her/his own self-definition, identity and type of relationship(s), free from any social, political, religious or economic coercion. We support healthy relationships between consenting adults. We acknowledge the right of partners, particularly female partners of bisexual men, to quality non-judgemental counselling and health services if needed, to greater understanding by all communities and to honesty in their relationship.

National BIWAYS is published at least once every two months. It is available by membership subscription, exchange, from various affiliated bisexual groups in Australia or through our international outreach work. The views expressed in this magazine are those of the authors unless otherwise stated. The inclusion of a person's name or photograph or business advertisement should not be taken as an indication of their sexual identity or sexual orientation.

The Australian Bisexual Network, Bisexual Youth Alliance, the Bisexual Community Information Service and *National BIWAYS* are unfunded and rely on your support to keep going. We welcome submissions of material for publication; assistance with production; involvement in Network and group activities, individual and community financial or "in kind" support.

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Material in *National BIWAYS* may be reproduced by other bisexual or bi-friendly groups provided the publication and author are acknowledged. We encourage other groups to do the same.

The Australian Bisexual Network is a full member of the International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA) and is host group for ILGA's Bisexual Information Pool, providing information on Bisexuality to individuals and groups worldwide.

Editorial

Greetings and Salutations,

Here it is (finally), the latest edition of National BiWays.

As the new editor it is my pleasure to introduce myself to the readership and to say thanks for waiting for this issue to be produced. My name is Niki Armanasco and I am a long term Brisbane resident. I currently work for Legal Aid Queensland and am active in Medieval and Gothic communities. I have a girlfriend called Stacey and a cat called Random, one of whom steals the sheets, the other takes up most of the bed. I have been supporting ABN events for a number of years and I thought I would contribute at a different level by taking over the editorship of National BiWays.

The calendar is already filling up for the first half of the year so if anyone out there is interested in hosting an event or meeting - get details to me soon!!

Please, please, please submit items for publication, any submission of poetry, artwork, stories, songs or dissertations will be greatly appreciated and the people sending these things in will be very highly regarded by the editor.

Hugs

Niki

For all your domestic and international travel, maybe that trip to the 2000 Sydney Mardi Gras or whether for holidays, business or package deals, the Australian Bisexual Network recommends



263 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst, Sydney, NSW, Australia 2010

For bookings & enquires, telephone

+61-2-9380 6244 / 02-9380 6244 or 1800-807 860

Fax +61-2-9361 3729 / 02-9361 3729

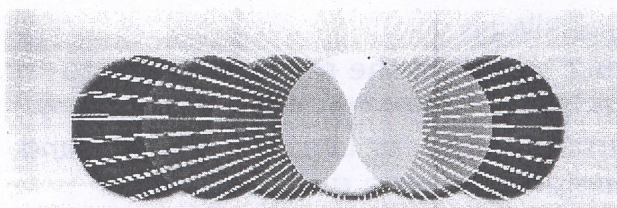
E-mail to silba@magna.com.au

from Rex Wockner's "Quote Unquote":

"I consider myself bisexual, and my philosophy is, everyone innately is, although I've never had a full-on relationship with a woman, just a couple of what I'd term half-assed dalliances. So I haven't explored it to the degree that I'd like to, but I'll tell you, I'm open to it. And I don't have any problem saying that."

Actress Megan Mullally (Karen on Will & Grace) to the Advocate,
November 23, 1999

Bisexuals and the Sydney Mardi Gras



2000 TOGETHER SYDNEY GAY + LESBIAN MARDI GRAS
FESTIVAL FROM FEBRUARY 11 PARADE + PARTY MARCH 4-5-6

The Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Festival for 2000 kicks off with the Launch at the Sydney Opera House on February 11th from 8pm. Bisexual people will look on with interest this year to see if anything has changed since the very visible and highly public rejection in 1999 of the appeals of two openly bisexual applicants for membership of the organisation. What has changed in the past 12 months? We will look at some of the developments and then look at some of the

Festival events that will again draw us along as participants for another year.

Following the public outcry by many over the rejection of membership of a number of bisexual people in early 1999, bisexuals had a very visible presence at the 1999 Festival Launch, followed by their usual SBN Fair Day stall and joint ABN and SBN entry in the Mardi Gras Parade. In the lead up to the Mardi Gras annual general meeting in August, the then Board relaxed their stand on bisexual applications drawing up interim guidelines for an applicants selection. A number of bisexual people were granted membership.

New Magic, a bi-inclusive alternative ticket running against the sitting Board members in the AGM was defeated but managed to highlight a growing dissatisfaction with some of the policies of the Board and management of Mardi Gras. David McLachlan returned as President for another year gave an undertaking that he would work in consultation with other groups and sectors of the Community. A membership review committee was established.

In September at the ILGA World Conference in Johannesburg, Mardi Gras' membership application approval was challenged by a delegate from the USA, because of Mardi Gras' discriminatory policy towards bisexual applicants. The matter was referred to a workshop which resulted in a recommendation of membership approval with the proviso that Mardi Gras address the issue of bisexual inclusion before the next World Conference in Rome in 2000.

In December, Mardi Gras held a public meeting was held to look at issue relating to membership including bisexual membership. David McLachlan gave an undertaking that he would recommend to the Board that bisexuals applying for membership should have the same automatic membership as is currently enjoyed by applicants that identify as gay, lesbians, homosexuals or transgenders. He further said he would take this to a Special General Meeting of the members and support a change in the Articles of Membership of the Constitution to enable automatic bisexual membership.

So here we are on the eve of the 2000 Mardi Gras Festival and we wait to see what will be said at the Launch. Will the "B" word be mentioned this year and when will the Special General Meeting be held? There has been some debate already. An unidentified person using the alias of "Gay & Proud" posted messages to ABN web page guestbook, on Pinkboard's Mardi Gras Festival Discussion Wall and to OzBi and SBN e-mail lists claiming 'militant bisexuals were trying to take over Mardi Gras, disrupt the Festival Launch and blockade the Parade'. This person ranted and raved, throwing insult and accusations at anyone who tried to counter these ridiculous claims. Then all of a sudden, "Gay & Proud" announced he was fabricated and it all was a hoax. What was his point in doing this? To create further division in our communities or to unite people in opposition to such bigotry?

The Sydney Bisexual Network will again have a stall at Fair Day on Sunday, 20th February. Do get along to Victoria Park, Parramatta Road, Darlington and say hello to the volunteers at the SBN Stall or give them a hand. Then afterwards drop by the Bank Hotel at Newtown for SBN's bar night at 6pm.

ABN/SBN Mardi Gras Parade Entry

The Australian Bisexual Network and the Sydney Bisexual Network invites bisexual people, their partners, families, friends and our supporters to join us in the 2000gether Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras Parade on March 4th.

Come join our Float or Walking Group in the Parade. The Australian Bisexual Network and Sydney Bisexual Network are again participating in the Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras Parade. We invite you to join us in the Parade and help us celebrate bisexual, transgender, lesbian and gay pride and visibility. It is the bisexual community's opportunity to show that we are proud as bisexual individuals and that we support our lesbian, gay and transgender sisters and brothers and people with HIV & AIDS. This is a spectacular evening and the biggest parade and celebration in Australia. If you have never been in the parade, it is an experience you will enjoy and not forget!

We welcome as many people as possible to participate and support ABN, SBN and the Bi community. We will have both a float and a walking group.

The theme of the float is "The Bisexual Garden" - a nice and beautiful place to be. We will need lots of flowers and some biggish trees in pots to help decorate the float. We hope to have a few volunteers construct a small white picket fence (the one we are suppose to be sitting on) and a small bridge that goes over it (the bridge between communities).

For the Walking Group, we would like participants to wear or carry something that reflects the lighteg., gold or silver.

ABN would welcome a donation of \$5 or more from participants to help us with hire costs, etc., and any donations are welcome. If you are interested in participating or volunteering to help please contact us as soon as possible.

Australian Bisexual Network

PO Box 490
Lutwyche
Queensland 4030
(07) 3857 2500
0416-068 532 (Wayne)
ausbinet@rainbow.net.au
<http://www.rainbow.net.au/~ausbinet/>
<http://bi.org/~sbn/>

ABN wins award for web site

In January the Australian Bisexual Network's web site was selected by britannica.com (<http://www.britannica.com/>) for the Britannica Internet Guide Award as one of the best informative and easily navigated internet sites.

A search on Britannica of "bisexual" reveals our listing as one of the best sites with a double star rating (the top rating). Here are there top web sites.

The Web's Best Sites

!OutProud!, The National Coalition for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Youth. Rating: **
Wide variety of resources for lesbigay teens. Contains searchable databases of books, local support services, and lesbigay role models; brochures addressing sexual orientation; resources for educators and students; and links to other Web sites of relevance to gay teenagers.

<http://www.outproud.org/>

Australian Bisexual Network. Rating: **

Information and resources for the bisexual and bi-friendly community. Discusses bisexual identity and common misconceptions about bisexuality. Features links to Australian and international support groups, businesses, youth groups, and personal home pages. Provides access to webrings, chat rooms, newsgroups, and mailing lists, including one for the spouses of bisexuals.

People with a History: Online Guide to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Trans History. Rating: **

Compendium of 31 chapters concerning the theory and practice of gay culture, from the Ancient Greeks to the present. Dedicates seven chapters to postwar America, with articles, primary documents, and chronologies included. Isolates and gives links to important debates over sexual identity, organized by decade.

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/pwh/index-old.html>

ATOD Resource Guide: Lesbians, Gay Men, and Bisexuals. National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information Rating: *

Annotated list of articles, reports, organizations, and programs addressing substance abuse among gays, lesbians, and bisexuals, from the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention.

<http://www.health.org/pubs/resguide/lgb.htm>

Bisexual Resource Center. Rating: *

Nonprofit educational foundation providing information to the public about bisexuality, support networks for bisexual individuals, and discussion programs on issues affecting bisexual people. Features descriptions of publications available through the center, along with order forms, and an index of other Internet resources for bisexuals.

<http://www.biresource.org/>

Financial Aid for Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Students: FinAid. Rating: *

Descriptions of and links to information on college scholarship opportunities for gay, lesbian, and bisexual students.

<http://www.finaid.org/otheraid/gay.phtml>

Gay & Bisexuals: Men's Health Issues McGill University. Rating: *

Brochure about general health and sexually transmitted diseases, for gay and bisexual men. Part of a larger index of gay and bisexual information.

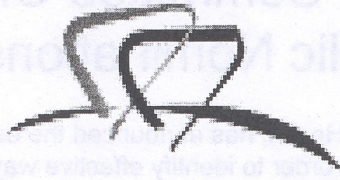
<http://ssmu.mcgill.ca/lbgtm/>

Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Veterans of America. Rating: *

Association of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered veterans of the U.S. armed forces. Includes a list of local

chapters, press releases, and links to other veterans organizations.

<http://www.glbva.org/>



Volunteers Needed

Volunteers aged 18 years and over are needed for a study into the lives of people who identify as bisexual.

The interview takes about 1½ to 2 hours and covers areas such as self-identity, coming out as bisexual, relationships with partners, friends, family, and community.

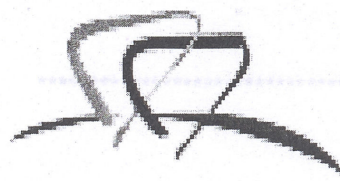
For those living in Melbourne, interviews will be conducted at a time and place convenient to you to ensure your privacy, and can be done by telephone if preferred.

For those living outside Melbourne, interviews are done by telephone at no expense to you.

Identities will not be revealed in the research process or in the final results, so confidentiality is assured.

The study is being conducted as part of a PhD in Sociology at Monash University, Clayton, Victoria.

For further information or to express your interest, please contact KirstenMcLean – telephone (03) 9531 2851 or e-mail kemcl1@student.monash.edu.au



Ministerial Advisory Committee On Gay And Lesbian Health Call For Public Nominations And Submissions

The Hon John Thwaites MP, Minister for Health, has announced the establishment of a Ministerial Advisory Committee on Gay and Lesbian Health in order to identify effective ways to address the particular health needs of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people. To be initially chaired by Mr Tony Keenan, the Committee will be asked to develop an action plan within 12 months and will investigate two major issues:

- The range of health risks relating to lifestyle, behaviours and social pressures.
- The barriers, and often discrimination, faced by gay men and lesbians in accessing and using health services.

The committee will comprise 12 to 15 people encompassing health professionals, academics/researchers and representatives of the gay and lesbian community.

The Department of Human Services is now calling for public nominations for membership of the committee as well as for brief public submissions on the health issues affecting gay men and lesbians throughout Victoria. These submissions will inform the committee's initial deliberations.

Inquiries and requests for information on how to make nominations to the committee and/or submissions should be directed to the Department's Health Development Section on 03 9637 4022 or via email to belinda.simons@dhs.vic.gov.au.

Closing date for nominations and submissions is 5PM Friday 10 March 2000.

(The Ministerial Media Release relating to the Committee can be accessed at: www.dhs.vic.gov.au - select 'media releases')

Up and Coming Film Release

*** Qstage ***

Release date: March 2, 2000

BOYS DON'T CRY

Starring: Golden Globe Winner - Best Actress Hillary Swank,
Peter Sarsgaard, Brendan Sexton 3rd, Chloe Sevigny,
Alison Folland, Alicia Goranson and Matt McGrath.

Boys Don't Cry - is the true account of the life of
Teena Marie Brandon, the Nebraska teenager
who lived her life as a boy.

The film was written by Kimberly Peirce and Andy Bienen.

20th Century Fox
Rated: R18+
Running Time: 119 minutes

CHECK out the new QSTAGE pages
<http://home.beseen.com/social/questage/>

International News

Albuquerque man arrested for murder of bisexual man: An Albuquerque, N.M., man was arrested last week on suspicion of killing a bisexual man in 1997, the Albuquerque Journal reports. Police officials said it's possible the victim, David Perea Jr., was shot for no other reason than his sexual orientation. The suspect, Marine Lance Cpl. Ryan S. Davis, 20, was arrested Wednesday. Police officials say Davis, who is based at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina and was not in the Marines at the time of the murder, confessed to killing Perea. According to the arrest warrant affidavit, Perea had been shot in the chest. When he was found by police lying next to tree, Perea said he had been sitting in his apartment watching TV when an unknown man came in with a shotgun. He said the man chased him out of his house and then shot him. While Perea told police he did not know why he had been shot, witnesses later told police that Davis had bragged about the shooting and had said he targeted Perea because he was a "faggot."

Source: "The Advocate" Tuesday, August 31, 1999

Canadian trio makes point with three-way wedding: Two men and a woman were joined in a mock three-way wedding in Toronto Friday to make the point that Canadians should have the right to choose whether to accept the traditional institution of marriage, the Calgary Sun reports. The wedding was organized by the University of Toronto Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered Out group and presided over by group member the Rev. Rainbow Bonte Minnema, who after the "I do's" said, "By the powers invested in me by your right to choose, I, Rev. Rainbow, convey on you, Shawn, Elizabeth, and Jeremy, the right to choose to define your own relationship."

Source: "The Advocate" Tuesday, August 31, 1999

George loco over Ricky: Ricky Martin wants to make beautiful music with George Michael, reports the New York Daily News. "I've worshiped him for years," Martin says. "He's fantastic. I like George's smile too." The openly gay Michael has made no secret about his crush on the "Loca" man. He ad-libbed Martin's name into his sultry cover of "My Baby Just Cares for Me" on his new album, *Songs From the Last Century*. "I'm always delighted when someone says they admire me," Martin tells The [London] Sun. "It's an even bigger compliment coming from one of the most talented artists of our time."

Source: "The Advocate" Tuesday, December 28, 1999.

Lovers rally to support porn fugitive: Former lesbian lovers of a bisexual porn actress being sought for an insider-trading scandal are trying to raise money for her defense, the *Ottawa Sun* reports. Kathryn Gannon, who performed under the name Marilyn Star, fled authorities who want to arrest her for her role in an insider-trading scandal in New York. The U.S. Attorney's office alleges that investment banker James McDermott leaked details of a bank merger to Gannon while the two were having an affair and that Gannon capitalized on the information. Other female porn stars who have performed sex scenes with Gannon are selling T-shirts that read, "Run Marylin Run." "Kathryn is bisexual, and a couple of [the fund-raisers] are her former lovers," said Marc Medoff, a close friend of Gannon's and president of Adult Press Service, which distributes erotic photos. Authorities believe Gannon is in hiding in Vancouver with her fiancé. Before fleeing authorities, she maintained that she is innocent of the charges.

Source: "The Advocate" Wednesday, December 29, 1999

Italian wives forgive gay affairs: Italian wives are more willing to forgive their husbands for having an affair with another man than with a woman, a new survey has found. Agence France-Presse reports that a poll conducted by the ANSA news agency found that more than half the men admitted to having had extramarital affairs during the summer, when wives and children traditionally leave for summer resorts. Half of the women said they would forgive their husbands for having an affair with another man. By contrast, 60% of the men said they would throw their wives out of the house if they discovered she had had a lesbian relationship. Men also said they found transsexuals among the groups having the highest sex appeal, along with actresses and flight attendants.

Source: "The Advocate" Thursday, December 30, 1999

US priests dying of AIDS at four times average rate: report

AAP -- Roman Catholic priests in the United States are dying from AIDS-related illnesses at a rate four times higher than the general population and the cause is often concealed on their death certificates, a US newspaper has reported.

The Kansas City Star said death certificates and interviews with experts indicated several hundred priests have died of AIDS-related illnesses since the mid-1980s and hundreds more are living with HIV, the virus that causes the disease.

"I think this speaks to a failure on the part of the church," said Auxiliary Bishop Thomas Gumbleton of the Archdiocese of Detroit. "Gay priests and heterosexual priests didn't know how to handle their sexuality, their sexual drive. And so they would handle it in ways that were not healthy."

The Star received 801 responses to questionnaires that were sent last autumn to 3,000 of the 46,000 priests in the United States. The margin of error of the survey was 3.5 percentage points.

Six of 10 priests responding said they knew of at least one priest who had died of an AIDS-related illness, and one-third knew a priest living with AIDS. Three-fourths said the church needed to provide more education to seminarians on sexual issues.

"How to be celibate and to be gay at the same time, and how to be celibate and heterosexual at the same time, that's what we were never really taught how to do. And that was a major failing," Gumbleton said.

Asked about their sexual orientation, 75 percent said they were heterosexual, 15 percent said they were homosexual, and 5 percent said they were bisexual.

The Rev. John Keenan, who runs Trinity House, an outpatient clinic in Chicago for priests, said he believes most priests with AIDS contracted the disease through same-sex relations. He said he treated one priest who had infected eight other priests.

The Star said precise numbers of priests who have died of AIDS or become infected with HIV is unknown, partly because many suffer in solitude. When priests tell their superiors, the cases generally are handled quietly.

The newspaper cited the case of Bishop Emerson Moore, who left the Archdiocese of New York in 1995 and went to Minnesota, where he died in a hospice of an AIDS-related illness. His death certificate attributed the death to "unknown natural causes" and listed his occupation as "labourer" in the manufacturing industry.

After an AIDS activist filed a complaint, officials changed the cause of death to "HIV-related illness," the Star said, but the occupation was not corrected.

The newspaper said the death rate among priests from AIDS appears to be at least four times that of the rate for the general US population.

Some priests and behavioural experts believe the church has scared priests into silence by treating homosexual acts as an abomination and the breaking of celibacy vows as shameful, the Star said.

Source: "ninemsm world news" January 31, 2000.

Local Bi Groups News

Cocktails, Food, & Intercourse in Sydney

Having got your attention I'll admit that the intercourse I'm speaking of is the social kind - but the cocktails are the real alcoholic kind!

Here in Sydney the most popular event that happens regularly for SBN followers is our monthly "pub night" that starts at the Bank Hotel in Newtown on the third Sunday of every month. Sleepers Bar specialises in cocktails that are made from the real thing ie. fresh fruit and name brand alcohol. There is an extensive cocktail list and they even have a few special mocktails for those who're off alcohol for the evening. Of course if you want a beer or a coffee you can get those too.

The bar maid has made quite a study of designing cocktails (both ingredients and appearance) and anyone who has seen the designs on a "Toblerone" or "Golden Gaytime" will tell you they're a work of art as well as being delicious. Also, I don't think that I'd be alone in saying, the bar staff look quite delicious too!!

We've been getting around 12 to 15 people along to these evenings which is just a good number for socialising and to not be too daunting for anybody coming along for the first time. Speaking of which, we've adopted a pink/blue/purple candle as an identifying piece that sits on our table so that new people know which group of people is "those bisexuals".

After a few drinks our thoughts turn to food and being Newtown there are plenty of choices. However over the last 6 months or so we've kept going back to the "New Wok in Town" restaurant which has a good range of reasonably priced Asian dishes with a few interestingly named house specialities. It's at this point that the biggest question of the night is posed: "Are you going to sit with the vegetarians or the omnivores?"

It's while we're eating that the more involved discussions are likely to take place. With a broad range of backgrounds amongst the people the topics of conversation can be wide ranging also. The last few months have featured the spawning habits of sea urchins - courtesy of our visitor from Indiana.

After the meal, and the divvying up of the bill, people head off in different directions but it's not unknown for a few to head back to the Bank for "just one more" cocktail.

So if you're around Sydney on the 3rd Sunday of any month drop in for drinks, food, and social intercourse.

**6:00pm., 3rd Sunday of every month
Sleepers Cocktail Bar, Bank Hotel, King St., Newtown**

Graham.

Border Bisexuals

The AWBG (Albury Wodonga Bisexual Group) is growing slowly, with 6 members (4m/2f). As the majority of members are still not 'out' to family/friends/work/etc, the activities have mostly consisted of coffee at a members house or a trip to the movies. More activities are planned for the near future, but no dates have been set yet.

The groups' web site was launched in mid-late January, and can be found at <http://marto.iwarp.com/bisexual/>.

More information is available by e-mailing borderbisexuals@icqmail.com or by calling Andrew on (mobile) 0417-694 116 or ICQ 2925520.

Cheers, Andrew

Hello, I just wanted to tell you about a new service available in Australia, created by us and based in Brisbane, Queensland, called The Personals Network (R) .



~~~~ ABOUT TPN ~~~~

TPN as it's known, offers information, resources and personals advertising to all people aged 13 and over. TPN is what is known on the internet as a Portal Site, in other words a starting point. There are a number of country based services and interest based services in places all over the world and to suit all ages and all interests. If you can think of it - we cover it!

There is information that relates to almost everything to do with finding, meeting and getting along with people, no matter who you are, where you are or what your interest or kink. We are non-judgemental, but do respect peoples privacy and the law in Australia pertaining to activity and online access to adult material. Membership is not free but is very affordable to suit every budget, whether a single person, a couple or a social group. These membership levels are applicable to all sites (except Swingers which is only silver).

There are three basic levels of membership that offer "the basics" (Bronze @\$2/mth) "middle of the road" (Silver@\$20/mth) or "the works" (Gold@\$50/mth) Pensioners and HCC holders are entitled to a concession. If you are an Australian old age Pensioner and can supply proof of same (seniors or pension card) TPN will award you an honorary Free Bronze Membership to The Australian Personals Network for life (yours) as a gift, access to extra sites are applicable at a 50% cost. We figure you have worked hard enough for your country and deserve something back.

~~~~ SOME TPN SITES CURRENTLY ON OFFER ~~~~

1. The Personals Network

<http://personals.net.au>

Info (as above) The starting point to get info about our own sites (as below) other sites, businesses, services and more.

2. The Australian Personals Network (aus.personals)*

<http://aus.personals.net.au>

Info: Australian Information, Resources & Advertising.

Thousands of personals ads in 35 categories many with photos.

Internal mail, chatroom, tons of stuff coming in 2000

3. The Bisexual Personals Network (bipernet)

<http://bisexual.net.au>

Information, Resources & Advertising for all bisexuals. This is for all bi's and will be spilt into bi-teen and bi-adult* in 2000. This is for bi specific info, resources, groups, and features on bi organisations including ABN. This group will be making itself known offline in 2000.

4. The Teens Personals Network

<http://teens.personals.net.au>

Info, resources and ads for all teens aged 13-20.

5. The GLBT Personals Network*

<http://glbt.personals.net.au>

Info, resources and ads for all glbt folk 18+.

6. The Swingers Personals Network*

<http://swingers.personals.net.au>

Info, resources and ads for swinging singles & couples. Poly info currently on this site until later in the year.

* Adult Verification will be required as these sites are adult only sites.

One site TPN offers for Free is The Australian & New Zealand Missing Persons Register. If you have lost contact with a friend, classmate, family member, looking for genealogy or adoption information, or even want a grave identified, this site does it. There is a search feature with over 2000 search engines on it so you can find anything or anyone you want.

7. The Australian & New Zealand Missing Persons Register

<http://missing.personals.net.au>

There are lots more sites not listed, and many more still in planning. These will progressively open as we are able to do so. Likewise other services and features all planned. If you have suggestions, or would like your social group/clubs details listed (this is totally free) we'd love to hear from you.

~~ CONTACT DETAILS FOR TPN ~~

Chris or Melissa BEE

Postal: Post Office Box 1223, Caboolture, Qld 4510

Email: admin@personals.net.au

Phone: 1300-130-494 (local call)

ICQ# 1123815

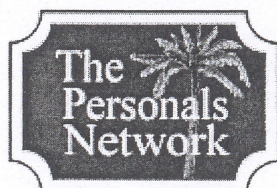
If you want more information about membership, placing an ad, or what we do, please telephone or write and send a SAE to the above address and we will send you an information pack. Please make sure you tell us your area of interest (ie bisexual).

As most of our services are currently all online, you can get online access at home, through a friend or at a cyber cafe or VideoEzy stores, or your local library or IPAT (Internet Public Access Terminal). You can find out a lot more about us, and see what we do. We will have an office available in Brisbane by mid year and we will be having Free Information Evenings available monthly. Please keep an eye on your local newspaper and keep in touch with ABN and Bipernet for stuff coming specifically for bisexuals, partners and friends if you are in Qld.

We look forward to seeing you soon,

Cheers,

Chris & Melissa BEE



Melbourne Pride March

The Pride march in Melbourne was a hoot, with 52,000 queers marching down Fitzroy St, St Kilda in what was touted as the first Pride March for the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Allied Communities anywhere in the world for the Millennium. Although 78 separate groups marched, there was no specifically bi group -- perhaps because of how openly bi people are included in the march and indeed the entire Midsumma Festival. The March took place on Sunday, January 30, which was also the Big Day Out in Melbourne, so the turnout is even more impressive.

The mayor of Port Phillip, dressed in an amazing gold lame jacket and purple lame pants, spoke about the tragedy of queer life over the last millennium, recalling men and women burnt as witches or faggots or killed during the Holocaust. He said there was nothing we could do to bring these people back, but that there was something we could do to bring young queer people back from the brink of suicide. He noted that the slogan of the International League of Pride Organisations, InterPride, had chosen the slogan "Take Pride, Take Joy, Take Action" for all Pride 2000 marches and called on the community and government to renew their commitment to reducing youth suicide.

Rosanne the elf (imladris@queer.org.au)

Digital Queers Australia

MELBIGUYS

Established this about 4 weeks ago at www.egroups.com is a new e-mail list for Bisexual and married guys in Melbourne and country Victoria.

Details are as follows:

MELBIGUYS: Bisexual, male & married in Melbourne

Group Description:

A group for married Bisexual men living in Melbourne or country Victoria, who need each other for emotional support, intelligent talk, tips, advice, sexual contact - or whatever needs are expressed. Membership is by invitation. To apply for an invitation to join please write a description about yourself, (no need to give identifying information), what you are looking for and what you can contribute to the group. **Post application to the list-owner, Charles (CT).**

Group e-mail addresses:

List owner:	melbiguys-owner@eGroups.com
Post Message:	melbiguys@eGroups.com
Subscribe:	melbiguys-subscribe@eGroups.com
Unsubscribe:	melbiguys-unsubscribe@eGroups.com

International Events

World Pride 2000



World Pride 2000 is an international event to be held in **Rome, Italy** from **July 1st to July 8th 2000**. Bisexual people are especially welcome and encouraged to attend. Italian bisexuals along with some of their international counterparts are planning a workshop and other social events. Many other community events, conferences, films and parties are planned and will culminate in a march through the streets of Rome on the 7th July. The City of Rome has embraced the event and given substantial funding to help with the cultural events. Visit the World Pride 2000 site: <http://www.worldpride2000.com> or e-mail Deborah Oakley-Melvin, World Pride 2000 International Director at WorldPrideRome@aol.com for more information. The **20th International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA) World Conference** will take place during World Pride 2000 and there will be a Pre-conference on Religion and

Homosexuality and the Women's Pre-Conference. **Scholarships** will be available to people wishing to attend from developing countries and special disadvantaged groups such as youth, people living with HIV/AIDS, and people with disabilities. Contact Deborah to apply for a scholarship.



The **13th International AIDS Conference** will take place in Durban, South Africa from the 9th - 14th July 2000. Scholarships to attend the conference closed on February 1st but you can still register to attend if you are interested in this conference. The Conference web site is at: <http://www.aids2000.com>

16th World Conference of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, & Transgender Jews.

The **16th World Conference of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, & Transgender Jews** at the Woodcliff Lake Hilton, Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey USA, Thursday, July 27th -- Sunday, July 30th, 2000. For more information go to:

Web page:

<http://people.delphi.com/matthew95/horizons2000.html>

Tel.: +1-732-650-1010

e-mail: conf@njhav.org

write to:

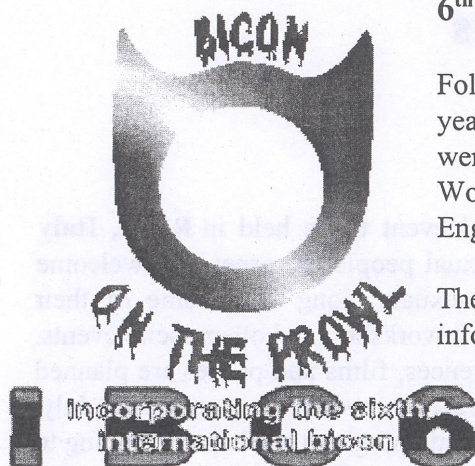
Horizons 2000

P.O. Box 2576

Edison, NJ 08818

USA





6th International Bisexual Conference

Following the cancellation of IBC6 for Rotterdam, the Netherlands this year, the organisers of the **18th United Kingdom Bisexual Conference** were approached to see if they would incorporate IBC6 into their program. Word has just come to hand that they will host IBC6 at Manchester, England as part of UK Bi Con 2000.

The dates for the conferences are 24th - 28th August 2000. Further information from:

Web page: <http://bi.org/~bicon/bicon2000/>
E-mail: bicon2000@bi.org
Postal: BM BiCon, London,
England, WC1N 3XX

North American Conference on Bisexuality, Gender and Sexual Diversity. Call for participation:

Dear fellow bisexuals, transfolk, and other members and friends of the North American bisexual community.

We in Vancouver are proud to announce the dates for the first ever **North American Conference on Bisexuality, Gender and Sexual Diversity**. The conference takes place, Thursday, August 9th to Sunday, August 12th, 2001, at the University of British Columbia Conference Centre in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Now it's time to plan the conference that will take place within those walls . . . and we'd like to invite you to come be a part of this historic event! Do you enjoy working with people? Creative writing? Art or graphic design? Are you good with computers? Are you doing research in the areas of sexuality or gender? Do you speak more than one language? Do you work in the hospitality industry? Do you have legal or accounting experience? Are you an entertainer? Can you build things? Do you own a video camera? Do you enjoy putting on events? Are you a good administrator? Can you work with audio visual equipment? Are you an experienced stage manager? Can you get free stuff through your job?

Yep, you guessed it, whatever your skills, interests, or experience, there's a place for you on the Conference organizing team. The more diverse range of folks involved the easier and more fun it will be for all of us. So why not come on board?

Just think! You'll be part of the historic first conference of its kind in North America. You'll get valuable experience for your resume. You'll be able to bring your voice and your ideas to the conference and then watch with pride as they come to fruition. You can partake of special organizer benefits. And, best of all, you can work with some really fun people from all over the US, Canada, Puerto Rico, Mexico, and beyond. Then when it's over, spend a few extra days in Vancouver at the height of the sunny season . . . relax on our world-renowned clothing optional beach . . . or check out the queer film and video festival. We look forward to seeing you.

So come and join us on our listserve! Just send e-mail to: majordomo@queernet.org and in the message area (not the subject line!) write: **subscribe 2001**

You can also check out our web page at: <http://bi.org/~binetbc/2001>

The page includes a list of key conference coordinator positions for those who would like to be part of the core organization team. If you're not one of those people, do not fret. Just join our listserve anyway and hang out with us. You'll find something that interests you, we're sure.

Hope to see you on the listserve. Oh! and please forward this message to anyone you think would be interested.
Thanks!

The Vancouver Conference Committee

Looking into the Next Millennium in Asia

Dear friends in Asia and the Pacific,

The Humsafar Trust, Mumbai (Bombay), is planning a **'Capacity Building in the lesbian-gay-bisexual-transgender (LGBT) sector workshop'** titled **'Looking into the Next Millennium in Asia'**. We are extremely excited that nearly all state governments and the central government in Delhi, have been evincing interest in the workshop which ranges from methods of organising/formalising one's status to networking with health facilities and local authorities.

The Humsafar Trust and its sister groups in India, mainly **'Integration'** and **'Counsel Club'** in Calcutta, **'Swabhav Trust'** in Bangalore, **'Humrahi'**, **'Humjoli'** and **'Humraz'** in Delhi and **'Saathi'** in Hyderabad offer various skills to any groups which wish to join up and learn from each other. This is a follow-up to the Hyderabad conference in February last year when it was decided to spread out and identify as many gay, lesbian and transgender groups in each formally organised groups' hinterland. This way many more voices and opinions would be heard and recognised throughout the vast country.

The Humsafar Trust has been appointed for India's first pilot project funded by the central and city governments to **'Motivate safer sex practices and stabilise STI/HIV prevalence in the MSM sector in Mumbai metro'** in April 1999.

We welcome and look forward to ILGA's participation in the form of a Asian regional workshop here to coinciding with the Capacity Building Workshop which is expected to draw around a 100 delegates from all over the country. We are sorry we cannot offer any funding to delegates though we will do our utmost to provide boarding and lodging on a modest scale.

Ashok Row Kavi
The Humsafar Trust
Mumbai Metro
INDIA

E-mail: HUMSAFAR TRUST <humsafar@vsnl.com>

BISEXUAL INSURGENCE TO HOST LOCAL ACTIVISM CONFERENCE APRIL 29, 2000

In anticipation of the legions of queer activists from around the country who will descend on Washington for the Millennium March on Washington (MMOW) April 30, local activist group Bisexual Insurgence will offer a one-day conference on bisexual activism at the local level Saturday, April 29.

Organizers of "Bi2K: Bisexual Community Activism in the 21st Century" hope the conference will attract not only bisexuals and their allies who will be in town for the march, but also will entice attendees who were not planning to attend the march. (Bisexual Insurgence neither supports nor opposes MMOW.)

"We're excited to have the unique opportunity to meet with bisexuals from across the country to learn from each other, forge new ties, and bring the energy of a national conference back to our respective local groups," said Rochelle Myers, chair of the Bi2K organizing committee.

The conference will begin at 10:30 a.m. with a plenary panel featuring well-known bisexual activists including Robyn Ochs, editor of the Bisexual Resource Guide, and Deb Kolodny of BiNet USA. B.I. organizer Erin Reid will moderate the panel.

At noon, attendees will break for lunch, where they can participate in informal discussions on a variety of topics related to the challenges of bi organizing and activism. From 1:30 to 3 p.m., a number of hands-on workshops will be offered. Throughout the day, attendees can browse tables sponsored by bi-oriented businesses and organizations. Later in the evening, B.I. will host a party for all bisexuals and their friends;

conference attendees and others are welcome. On Friday, April 28, B.I. will host a reception for Bi2K organizers, speakers, and sponsors.

Because Bisexual Insurgence is a small, local group that does not have corporate funding, it is important that interested participants register promptly. B.I. is offering a discount for early registration of \$25 before March 5; registration is \$35 thereafter, with on-site registrants paying \$40.

For more information on Bi2K, visit our Web site at <http://www.bisexualinsurgence.org/bi2k>.

Will Cork County Council be First to Recognise Bisexual Relationships?

IRELAND (Sunday Times, February 6, 2000)

Cork county council is considering recognising gay partnerships, giving homosexual couples higher priority on housing lists and the right to purchase joint graves. Gay people would also be given recognition as next-of-kin in county hospitals. A draft by-law on domestic partnerships is to come before the council later this month. If it is passed, the council would become the first state body in the republic to recognise gay and lesbian couples. The by-law, which is based on similar legislation in America, has been proposed by Peter Kelly, a Progressive Democrats councillor who was elected last June.

The law would allow anyone in a committed relationship sharing a home, including unmarried heterosexual couples, disabled people living with carers and gay couples, to register as domestic partners with the council. The option of having a civil ceremony to formalise the registration of the partnership is included in the proposed law. Kelly said: "It is basically applying partnership legislation, which has worked extremely well from a business point of view, to the domestic situation. **Yes, it will apply to same sex couples; yes, it will apply to cohabiting couples, and no, there is no limit on the number of people who can come together to form a domestic partnership and register as a unit that would be recognised by the county council for housing purposes.**" Kelly said that at present a single male on the housing list had little chance of getting a residence.

"The civil ceremony is basically the local authority or state actually publicly recognising the partnership," said Kelly. "It's a bit like a register office in a marriage." Kelly, who is gay, said he had also proposed the law to encourage debate. "I don't consider it to be radical, I think it is long overdue. With divorce a reality, there are many people in relationships which are not recognised in any formal way by the state."

The initiative has been hailed by gay community activists. Kieran Rose, co-chair of the Gay and Lesbian Equality Network, said: "We think it is a great step forward, particularly as it will apply to all non-marriage relationships. "It is a important first step in beginning to recognise non-marriage-based partnerships. "I think it will be really important for people, as a psychological boost to their self-esteem, that this could be the beginning of the recognition of their relationships by the state," said Rose, a Corkman living in Dublin. Senator David Norris said the ultimate objective "will be to get this recognition in national law" in Ireland. Norris campaigned to have the rules on capital acquisition tax changed to allow two people who have shared a home for more than three years to inherit from one another on the same basis as a couple who are married. He said: "This would be a more radical solution, to go for full recognition of relationships centrally and it is inevitable it will come in here. Anything less than that makes second-class citizens of people on account of their sexual orientation."

Norris said the Cork county council might not pass the by-law, but the proposed law would start a debate. "It looks very unusual, threatening and frightening to people who have these rights, and sometimes they are given the impression this will take away some rights from marriage. It won't, it will just give more rights to other people," he said. The proposal has been broadly well-received by other council members. Paula Desmond, the Labour leader on the council, said: "I would certainly be supportive of it. I haven't heard anybody objecting to it. "The actual concept of registering long-term single-sex relationships hasn't caused any difficulty at all." Desmond said there was, however, some minor concern that the county secretary may not be the correct official to record the partnerships.

ARE YOU A BISEXUAL MAN OR A GUY THAT HAS SEX WITH WOMEN AND MEN AND DOESN'T IDENTIFY AS BI OR ARE YOU THE PARTNER OF A BI MAN?

I am writing to ask bisexual men and their partners to contact me so that I can learn more about the experience of bisexual men and their partners in the AIDS epidemic. I am writing for publication and also speaking publicly at forums about the experience of bisexual men and their partners in the AIDS epidemic.

AIDS workers and volunteers have frequently spoken of the problem of bisexual men who don't acknowledge bisexuality, who don't associate with gay culture and more broadly the silence of bisexual men. But this has often occurred in media discussions and forums where acknowledgement of the factors that discourage bisexual men from speaking, and a commitment to ensuring the space for bisexual men to speak for ourselves, has been absent.

I use the word bisexual in the broadest sense, including:

- people whose experience or behaviour could be described as bisexual, regardless of how they identify themselves, e.g. bisexual, straight, gay, queer, transgender, no labels, etc.;
- a person who has had significant sexual experiences with individuals of both genders whilst their experiences of sexual attraction in terms of gender may vary greatly;
- a person who may be attracted to both men and women whilst their behaviour may be monogamous, non-monogamous or celibate.

It would be very helpful in terms of speaking more knowledgeably about the experience of bisexual men and their partners in the AIDS epidemic, if I were to speak with a greater range of bisexual men and women partners and men partners of bisexual men.

I hope to speak with people who have HIV and also with people who don't. I'm particularly interested in people's experiences of health organisations including mainstream hospitals, sexual health centres and AIDS organisations including gay community AIDS organisations. If you have had contact with any organisations of this kind for support, safe sex programs, health care, treatments or as volunteers or employees, were they helpful or unhelpful, constructive or hostile in their responses to your experiences or concerns?

I am also interested in how people feel about the representation of bisexual men in the Media. Health providers and researchers generally acknowledge that it has often been negative and hostile. What do you think? Has the Media representation of bisexual men helped bisexual men and their partners deal better with the complex challenges we face in the AIDS epidemic, or has it made it more difficult?

I will respond to people's communication with a fundamental commitment to integrity and confidentiality. In writing for publication and speaking publicly, I will discuss people's experiences in such a way as to protect their privacy and identity.

Though I have received encouragement and support from many health workers in this project, it is not publicly funded. I am funding it myself because I believe the issues are important. Because of this I cannot afford a 1800 number but ask people to ring me between 8.00am and 11am or between 2.00pm and 8.00pm Eastern Standard Time on any day including weekends. Because of varying commitments including work contracts, there may be times when I am not there. If the phone is not answered by me, a message will give the times when I will be there to take calls over the following week. If you are ringing STD and would prefer me to ring you back, I will be happy to do that. I hope you will help me with this project and contact me on:

Tel. **03-9439 6331**
between 8am & 11am or 2pm & 8pm.

Or write: **Scott Anderson**
PO Box 37
ELTHAM
VIC 3095

More Events

Ladies Nights in Logan City

Notice of intent to run a ladies Bi-Night once a month.
If interested contact Margaret on 3805 6943
or e-mail at: namlock@powerup.com.au

Birthday Party

Come celebrate Peter's birthday with him
Saturday 11th March
Carina, Brisbane
Contact ABN on 3857 2500

Women's Pizza & Chat Social Night

Friday, 25th February
From 7pm Thornlands,
Redlands Shire, Queensland
Contact Gillian on 3821 6996

Mixed Bi-Social Night

1st Saturday of the month
at Jean & Leslie-jean's
from 7pm Brisbane/Redcliffe.
BYO drinks, munchies, favourite CD / game etc.
RSVP numbers on 38803620 by the day before
or by email to cheetah@editgroup.aunz.com,
icq #22695965

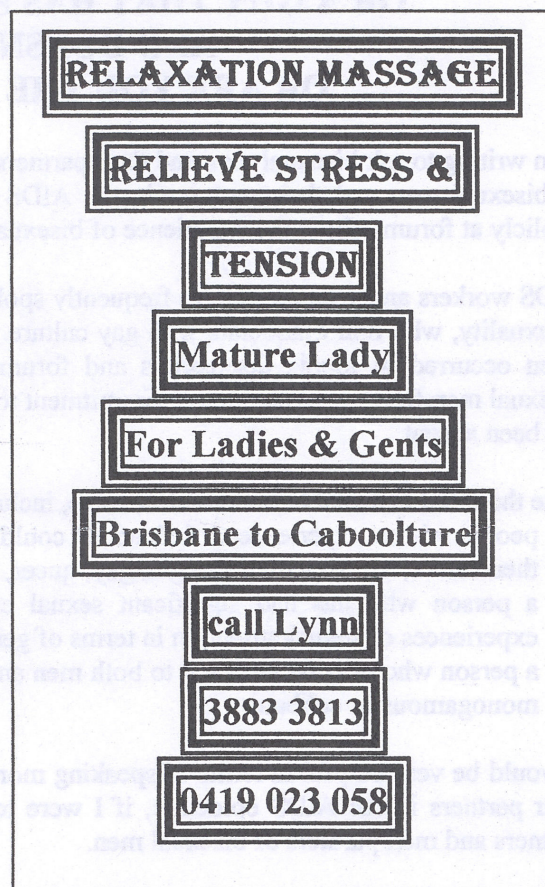
SYDNEY Pre-Mardi Gras

Firstly - all info, including maps, is available on the events page of the SBN web site: <http://bi.org/~sbn/events.html>

Secondly - if you're confused, or think that I'm confused, give Graham call to sort it out, 0416 070360.

On the Friday night, 3rd March we'll be having a get together for drinks at the Bank Hotel in Newtown starting from 7pm. This will allow us to do a bit of socialising with the out of towners and new faces before the big day on Saturday. I'm sure some of us will move on from there to food and/or other entertainment.

If you haven't worked out what party you're going to on the Saturday night after the parade, then you can chat to people on Friday night to sort out a common destination.



On Saturday we'll meet in Hyde Park from 4:30pm near the memorial and pool (above Museum Station) for a picnic type thing so that we can all move to the marshalling area together. (As yet I don't have info on exactly where our entry will be within the marshalling area but I should know after the briefing this weekend and will email the details.) Only bring with you what you can throw away or carry all the way along the route.

With ABN's entry including a truck there is the opportunity for people who can't walk the whole route to participate in the ABN garden theme.

The SBN entry is just walkers (but hopefully we'll be grouped with ABN) and we'd prefer everyone to wear shiny type stuff to reflect the light. The parade starts at 8pm but it can sometimes be 9:30 before our entry even starts to move. The parade finishes up at the Sydney Football Stadium and you may find that you have to walk almost the same distance back into town to get transport. Regards - Graham.
Email: gmckay@ozemail.com.au
Phone: 0416 070360

Calendar of Bi Events February/March 2000

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
14th For specific information and details on events call ABN 07-38572500	15th	16th	17th Bi Drop-In 12-2pm Rainbow Centre Upstairs 719A Stanley St Woolloongabba SYDNEY Out & About Sexuality Radio coordinated by Anthony. Airls on 89.3FM 2GLF from Midnight until 3am each and every Thursday. Request a song!! Send an email to ayeo@ozemail.com.au or listen in and call up!	18th	19th	20th Sydney Bi Network's Cocktails & Dinner at the Bank Hotel Newtown from 6pm Our table if the weather is nice will be in the beer garden downstairs if not we will out back in the Sleepers Bar. If you get lost, you can try to contact Graham on 0416 070 360. <i>Also 19th March</i>
21st	22nd	23rd	24th Bi Drop-In Brisbane SYDNEY Out & About Sexuality Radio	25th Pizza and Chat Social Night Brisbane	26th Bar Bi 8pm to late Options Niteclub 18 Little Edward Street, Spring Hill, Brisbane (meet upstairs by 10pm)	27th
28th	29th LEAP YEAR Drinks time and location to be advised.	1st March	2nd March Bi Drop-In Brisbane SYDNEY Out & About Sexuality Radio	3 March <i>Sydney Bank Hotel Newtown from 7pm.</i>	4th March SYDNEY GAY & LESBIAN MARDI GRAS Parade & Party Come join the Bi Community entry in the Parade. E-mail ABN or call Wayne on 0416-068532 if you want to get involved.	5th March <i>4th March Brisbane Social Night Jean + Leslie's 388 03620.</i>
6th March	7th March	8th March	9th March Bi Drop-In Brisbane SYDNEY Out & About Sexuality Radio	10th March	11th March Bar Bi Brisbane <i>Peter's Birthday Party, Carina Brisbane.</i>	12th March
13th March	14th March	15th March	16th March Bi Drop-In Brisbane SYDNEY Out & About Sexuality Radio	17th March	18th March Women Only Social Event Brisbane	19th March Mix Social BBQ Arvor. Gabby's Taigum Brisbane call 38572500.
20th March	21st March	22nd March	23rd March Bi Drop-In Brisbane SYDNEY Out & About Sexuality Radio	24th March	25th March Bar Bi Brisbane	26th March
27th March	28th March Women's Coffee 10am at "Two Faces of Eve" Cafe Annerley, Brisbane. call Gillian 38216996	29th March	30th March	31st March	1st April Women's Pizza & Chat Nite call Gillian 38216996.	

Bar Bi

Brisbane's bar
for Bisexual Men & Women & their
friends.

Every 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month
from 8pm to late

at Options Niteclub

Groundfloor level, 18 Little Edward Street, Spring Hill

Venue organised by the Australian Bisexual Network .

*Come along, meet people, have fun & support your community.
Friendly staff, great DJ, music, dancefloor.*

"National Biways." *National Biways*, vol. 8, no. 37, February-March 2000, p. [1]. Archives of Sexuality and Gender, link.gale.com/apps/doc/BIWMSR898908787/AHSI?u=ubcolumbia&sid=bookmark-AHSI. Accessed 28 Nov. 2024.